



CALIFORNIA GARDEN

❧ Christmas Number ❧

GARDENS I HAVE VISITED

By C. I. Jerabek

THE GARDEN CONTEST AND AWARDS

WINTER CARE OF CACTI

DECEMBER, 1929

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Christmas.



The California Garden

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No. 6

GARDENS I HAVE VISITED

By C. I. Jerabek

"Rancho San Leandro" is one of the interesting gardens of Montecito. Mrs. Gould very courteously invited me to tea and to ramble at will through the gardens. Among the interesting growing things was a hedge of *Galphimia brasiliensis*; a Caboul Fig with its oval leaves; *Acacia pendula*, very beautiful like a weeping willow except it has a soft gray foliage; a large tree of *Alphitonia excelsa*, the foliage is very beautiful but the flowers are insignificant; *Diospyros cargilli* (Persimmon); *Hibiscus tiliaceus* (Kaw tree) round leaves; *Hemmannia* with its fine foliage and yellow flowers; *Schotia speciosa*, compound glossy leaves and large flat oblong brown seed pods; Miss Sessions planted a *S. brachypetala* about thirty years ago that may be seen at the corner of Second and Spruce Streets, San Diego; *Blighia sapida* (Akee tree) the foliage very similar in appearance to the carob tree; *castanospermum australe* with large glossy compound leaves; *Grevillea Hilliana*, one of which we have in Balboa Park; *Sterculia Bidwilli*, a tree about two feet in diameter, leaves resembling a sycamore with large pink flowers; a large bush of *Dodonaea viscosa* whose seeds resemble those of the begonia (Miss K. O. Sessions has a small bush of this plant); *Meoexhania platycladyx*; *Hovenia dulcis* (Raisin Tree) one in Huntington Gardens, San Marino; *Dalbergia Sissoo* grows eighty feet in India, but growth very slow here; and on a wall a very beautiful vine with opposite stems and leaves and dark trumpet shaped flowers, the name of which I do not know.

Mrs. Edward Cunningham, 31 Mesa Road, Montecito, graciously showed me through her home and garden. Both the inside and outside were so lovely I could not tell which I liked the better.

As we came around the corner of the house we looked down upon a beautiful canyon in a natural setting of oaks; along the rim was a bank of *Alsophila australis* (Australian tree fern) and *Woodwardia radicans* (chain fern) with the white Japanese anemones in blossom amongst them, a very pleasing sight. Banked on the terrace were pots of Tuberous Begonias, Gloxinias and Ferns.

On a window ledge were four pots of white geraniums, these plants though very common just added a touch of homelikeness to the scene. Between the flagstones near the edge of the walk was a dwarf campanula (*C. isophylla alba*) in bloom. From the house at this point we looked out over a beautiful lawn to a raised platform. In the center was a fountain playing, chairs here and there, a fine place to serve tea in the afternoon.

In the rose garden the walks are made of bricks with a border of *Buxus sempervirens* about eight inches high. And then into another section of the garden where all kinds of annuals and perennials were growing, along some of the walls were placed potted chrysanthemums almost ready to bloom. In one corner is a little glass house where the practical work is carried on.

Gillispie Place, "El Fureidis." It makes one sad to see this show place for so many years going backward, yet in this partly neglected garden are still some wonderful plants. At the top of the stairs of the Italian Garden is a clump of palms containing *Dioon spinulosum*, *Macrozamia spiralis*, *Encephalactos Lehmanni* and *E. brachyphyllus* all of the cycad family. *Ceroxylon andicolum* (Wax Palm); *Rathrinix elegantissima*, slender stem fan palm; *Levistonia Mariae*, fan palm; *Brahea calycarea*, fan; *Arecia Bauri*, like thatch leafed palm; *Wallichia disticha* resembling a fish tail; and a curious blue colored fan palm that grows upright and has a trunk like the *Cocos plumosa*.

The leaves of *Acrocomia sclerocarpa* are like the *Cocos plumosa* except they have black spines two to four inches long running along the midrib on both upper and lower sides; *Cocos Romanzoffiana* also resembles a *Cocos plumosa*, the exception being in swelling in the trunk part way up. There are many of the more common varieties. A large bush of *Plumeria acutifolia* (the temple or graveyard flower) was full of bloom, the flowers are about the size of a dollar, white with pale yellow center; in another part of the grounds is a large *Colletia spinosa*, a good shrub for a cactus garden.

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BERRIED SHRUBS

In lieu of a regular monthly meeting of the Floral Association and a garden visit and an afternoon berried shrub exhibit, we had an evening meeting December 3 devoted to berried shrubs.

That composite of amusement and fascination and instruction, Miss Sessions, had charge of the meeting and gave us a very comprehensive summary of that type of vegetation, gave away plants to the lucky number holders and Australian nuts, Macedania, and theresia (lucky stones) to those who held the numbers that were duds. So there was something for everybody besides coffee and cookies which the house committee served.

There were innumerable exhibits of shrubs in full fruitage and a beautiful display it made. There were many varieties of pyracanthas or creteagus or hawthorne or what have you, not the hawthorne of England's hedges which are deciduous and beautiful principally for their flowers but the hawthornes of China suitable to our climate and beautiful for their orange or red fruits.

There were exquisite sprays of that vicious, stiff fast growing *Pyracantha Angustifolium* which has a short life but which obligingly seeds itself down and leaves numerous progeny to take its place. There was *pyracantha formosina* with spreading rather than high growth and much larger and more wonderful berries; *pyracantha penulata* especially good for a hedge as it stands trimming well and has two varieties, the red berried and the yellow (flava).

Then there is *pyracantha lalandi*, the very best one with dark green handsome foliage and erect growth. And the lovely red-berried *pyracantha yunnanensis* of which there was an exquisite bowl on the table. It has the reddest berries of any shrub I think and the glossiest.

And there were many varieties of cotoneaster, the commonest of which is *paunosa*. Miss Sessions warned us to give it plenty of room when we plant it as it grows to ten feet in height and if planted too close to a building will have to fall over. She said in pruning not to cut the branches back but to cut out whole stems, although fruit is not borne on the first year's growth.

There are three dwarf varieties, *Nana* and *Coolidgii* and *microphylla*, a trailer with tiny leaves which is suitable for walls and banks; and a low spreading one, *Cotoneaster depressa*.

Cotoneaster franchetti with orange berries; *horizontalis* spreading with brilliant foliage and berries but deciduous for a short time in water.

The most interesting one to me was *saligna*, a drooping willow-like variety sparse in its

orange berries, needing plenty of room.

There were two varieties of holly, one Chinese *ilex cornuta* and one from Virginia *ilex vomitoria* with translucent rosy red fruit and perfect for a hedge.

There were two shrubs Miss Sessions begged us all to plant. The *heteromilis arbutifolia* or California holly or Toyon berry which is native here and carries with it a \$500 fine for those who pick it as it grows wild; and *Solanum gigantea* the African holly quick of growth from seeds with huge clusters of shiny red and green berries. I have had some experience with it. It is tender to cold, not long lived but seeds itself down and so you always have plenty.

Miss Sessions says the Chinese holly is grown by the acre in Oregon and Vancouver to be sold at Christmas time and that it could as easily be grown in Julian or any of our mountainous back country and made profitable.

Nandina domestica called sacred bamboo of Japan, though not a bamboo is a drought resistant straight disease resistant shrub very suitable here as it bears many berries of lovely bright red and needs no trimming or especial care. There were several of those beautiful shrubs, the *Eugenias*. *Eugenia hookeri* with its great dense rich dark red clusters of edible berries; *Eugenia syzigium* with lavender berries; *Eugenia myrtifolium* which makes that lovely column of shiny, glossy red green leaves; *Eugenia Jambos*, the rose apple, which makes a tree.

Then there was the Natal plum, that sharp thorned lovely fruited thing with shiny, pointed edible fruit which looks as if it were made of celluloid.

There were several *pittosporum*, the word means pitch seed. There was *pittosporum rhomboidifolium* which has perhaps the loveliest berries of them all; *pittosporum undulatum* growing into a tree and suitable for street planting; *pittosporum tobira* and a drooping weeping one suitable for a pool border, *pittosporum fileridiodes*. It needs staking. A beautiful one may be seen at Gen. Terry's in Coronado.

Then there was *Duranta*, the only berried shrub here that bears fruit and flowers at the same time. It is used in the Azores to protect lemon orchards from the sea winds; is drought resistant and very hardy and its long currant-like drooping sprays of yellow berries are lovely.

To me the loveliest thing there was *berberis wilsoni* with the most beautiful rose pink translucent berries. It is very thorny, tiny leaved, and wants a cold exposed windy place in which to grow. And, of course, there was Miss Sessions' pet *Rapheolephs ovata* or Indian haw-

thorne, low growing with white blossoms and purple berries. There is the variety indica which grows taller and delicurri which has pink blossoms.

When there is such a wealth of plant life as we have here and so much information to be absorbed, at first, one feels hopelessly confused and discouraged. I used to go on the Saturday nature walks and come home in a maze but gradually after going many times things began to stick in my memory and before long I was amazed at the number of plants I knew the names of, followed by spells of depression at the number I didn't know.

But this I do know, if you read California Garden, go to the Floral Association meetings and the Natural History walks, you will gradually absorb and retain more and more knowledge of our most interesting plant life.

MAKE THE GARDEN LOOK LARGER THAN IT IS

Privacy is necessary to the full enjoyment of a garden, but the latter ought not to be separated into precise plots or divisions by means of thick hedges or densely covered trellis. A garden should not be a collection of compartments. Views and vistas add greatly to its charm. A peep through a Rose arch revealing a glimpse of the house, lawn, or flowerbed, while in itself delightful, increases the apparent size of the garden and gives a feeling of distance which is altogether lacking if the view terminates in a solid mass of greenery furnished by a hedge.

By screening rather than by shutting out the surroundings of a garden it is often possible to create the illusion of distance and an indefinite boundary by allowing them to be seen through a trellis thinly covered with climbing plants or through widely spaced trees or shrubs. A winding path helps to conceal the extent of a garden and add to its attraction, for it arouses expectations as to what lies beyond. Even in a small garden it is possible to arrange for a winding walk that disappears beneath an arch of Rose or Clematis with a glimpse of flowers or shrubs beyond, and that is often sufficient to save it from the reproach of commonplace.—Popular Gardening.

NEW MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS FOR DECEMBER

Mrs. Frances W. Davis, Brea, Calif.
J. Cornelius, Petaluma, Calif.
Frances J. Farrar, Pacific Beach,
Mildred Seiler, Decatur, Ill.
J. W. Lukon, Los Angeles.
Gaylord Shepherd, Turlock, Calif.
John Bunyan Smith, San Diego.
Mrs. H. Colby, San Diego.
Mrs. Fannie B. Michens, San Diego.

REPORT OF FLORAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 19

Our Mr. Merrill showed us colored slides of Lower California and told us many interesting things about his trip there. Mr. Merrill, always so meticulous and sparing no effort to make things perfect was very upset because the screen was too thin and the pictures did not come out sharply. He grew more and more dissatisfied and for two cents would have thrown them out of the window. But we who had never seen them in their state of perfection enjoyed them and the talk that accompanied them.

Most of us know the wretched conditions of the roads between here and Ensenada, but Mr. Merrill says below that for 375 miles they are surprisingly good and wonders at the Mexican government keeping them so good when there is no traffic. In that distance they met 3 pedestrians and no vehicles of any sort.

From 300 to 600 miles south of Ensenada the vegetation is exclusively cactus. Mr. Merrill took his pictures to four of the California authorities for identification of species (Berger, Hetrick, Cecil Hart and Dr. Fawcett) and as they all disagreed as to nomenclature of the less common ones, he felt he could not give us very definite information.

There were many pictures of *Cereus Pringlii*, the giant cactus of Arizona. There was a different *Ocotillo* from our *Fouquieri* which sends its numerous branches up from the ground whereas this one sends them out from a central trunk. There is a cactus, *cactus bergero*, *cactus emoryi* which is typical of Southern California and is found sparsely as far north as Rancho Santa Fe which is very abundant in Lower California. There was a beautiful picture of two huge low growing clusters of *Euphorbias* with golden tips which nobody could identify. There were many varieties of *dudleyi* (hen and chickens). There was a gorgeous mistletoe with a brilliant red berry which Mr. Merrill thinks would add to our Christmas decorations if we could get it to growing here. There was an elephant tree with a satin patina. It is called *copalquin* by the natives and its bark may be used for stationery.

There was one fascinating picture of a huge granite boulder with innumerable cacti growing out of its grim surface. There was a Joshua tree (*Yucca Validi*) 40 feet high; there were many fine cacti *rectispinus*, a tall slender ridged cactus with spines on the ridges. There were many agaves of the *goldermaniana* type with very slender stems to its blossoms. And there were charming pictures of what Mr. Merrill describes as the wettest place you ever saw, the oasis of San Ignacio, one-third of which is hot pools. It is one by two and a half miles and 200,000 fruiting date palms grow

there and the Washingtonia and blue erythea armatis palms.

I felt like Alice in Wonderland as I gazed at the bizarre and interesting landscapes. It was Mr. Merrill's first attempt at color photography and the result was surprisingly good.

As a foil to his cactus pictures he showed us some of his own beautiful garden. A lovely Papa Gontier rose; a great solanum rantonetti, the yellow tree poppy; a hybrid ceanothus (wild lilac); Sunny South, a new gigantic rose from Australia and some artistically arranged still life studies.

He also showed us some spots in Mr. Tom Hamilton's garden, which garden scored the highest number of points of any in San Diego in the recent prize contest.

We do hope Mr. Merrill will go on taking pictures and bringing to us other scenes, and other manners and I think he will. It must be an interesting game.

After the meeting Miss Sessions answered questions from the question box. Here are some of the questions and answers:

My delphiniums are all dying, what shall I do?

Move to another country. They like a colder climate. They are tricky here. The best way is to sow the seeds in July, let grow, die down and come up again and they will bloom in the spring.

* * *

Is it best to leave cannas in the ground. Leave in ground now, separate in spring. They need very rich soil and lots of water.

* * *

Can you give suggestions as to growing Balsams here?

No, they belong to a colder climate. I don't like them anyhow.

* * *

How can I prevent Snapdragons from getting rust?

Plant very early and spray with Bordeaux.

* * *

Why do sweet peas turn yellow when six inches high?

The soil is not rich and deep enough.

* * *

How should dahlias be cared for when they quit blooming?

Cut back and leave in the ground a while yet. Then dig and leave in the open. Let them sprout in spring. In March take a piece with sprouts or eyes on it or it won't grow.

* * *

Can one plant poppy seed now?

Yes.

* * *

What can we do to make iris bloom?

I'll leave that to iris experts to answer. (I am not an expert but my 50 varieties of iris do bloom. They have blood and bone and lime in the heavy adobe soil, are on a slight slope

so that they have drainage, and are kept well watered from September to June 1.)

* * *

What is the life of maidenhair fern?

Years and years without transplanting, adding a little leaf mould and fertilizer occasionally. They don't want to be disturbed.

* * *

What about the habits of Thalyctrum (meadow rue)?

Die down in winter, come up again in summer and like cold weather and shade.

* * *

The flowers and plants brought in were a climbing sunburst rose (which needs no pruning or especial care and gives many blooms); a creamy Wilmot rose; a ruellia macanthra, a shade loving rose hued lovely flower like a flat topped trumpet about two inches long. A justitia, rose colored, with dark leaves and a light pink one with pale green leaves and a strelitzia regina (Bird of Paradise), which Miss Sessions showed us how to pollinize by hand.

—N. K. B.

SAN DIEGO WEATHER IN DECEMBER

By Dean Blake

December is often the rainiest month, and, normally, is characterized by more stormy days than the preceding months. The average number of days with measurable precipitation is about six, but during some seasons rain falls on twelve or fourteen days. Unless deficient, the amounts are large enough to take care of agricultural needs and irrigation during years with average falls ceases.

Nights become much colder as a rule, and killing frosts may be expected in the valleys back from the coast. During severe cold waves, frosts extend to the coast. In spite of this, the daytime is usually mild and pleasant, and is never too cold for out-of-door activities and sports. Temperatures over 70 degrees are not uncommon, and in the city rarely are lower than the freezing point.

The relative humidity is lower than at any other period of the year, the monthly average being 68 per cent, and excepting November, there is more sunshine than any of the other months.

WORTHWHILE AND CHEAP

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued in its Farmers Bulletin No. 1171 a very useful guide to growing flowering annual plants which can be had from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., on application and the price of fifteen cents.

This bulletin of sixty-two pages is quite profusely illustrated and gives directions how to do everything from the seed to the flower, the making of flats, hotbeds, etc., and is a guide everybody should have.

FOR DECEMBER

Native trees have a longer life than the exotic tree. The late Professor Chas. Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum in Massachusetts said, "It takes 75 years to test a tree." This fact was observed in Massachusetts and the surrounding states.

Here in Southern California 25 to 30 years should be a fair test, as to their growth and habit but not as to their length of life.

What tree will stand up to this test? The only native trees that can be considered for our San Diego Coast are the California Live Oak, *Quercus Campestris*, and the California Sycamore, *Planatus Californica*. Of the exotics there are the *Eucalyptii*, the Pepper tree, the *Araucarias Excelsa* and *Bidwilli*, *Cedrus Deodora*, 30 year old specimens of these trees are found about Pasadena and Los Angeles abundantly and a few in San Diego.

There are just a few specimens about the city over 30 years old of *Eucalyptus Citriodora*, the lemon-scented *Eucalyptus*. *Eucalyptus Amygdalena*, the Camphor tree; and several rubber trees, such as *Ficus Macrophyllae*, known as the Moretown Bay Fig tree of Australia, and *Ficus Australii*—small leafed rubber tree and *Ficus Elastica*.

In our Mountains we find many wonderful specimen trees that must be fully 200 years old.

The one tree growing in our mountains that is a real success at sea level here is the Incense cedar, *Libro Cedrus decurrens*. They make the finest of the typical evergreen. No staking or pruning and no trimming. They grow quite fast where set out as a small plant, and will make a very attractive Christmas tree for the garden.

This tree and the California Live Oak I recommend for every garden that has sufficient space—where they may remain without being ruined by pruning or destroyed by the growth of industry.

The Evergreen Elm and the deciduous small leaf Elm, both quite new varieties from China, promise a long life and much beauty and valuable timber for lumber, especially the deciduous variety. Both are doing well in this city and will thrive in colder climates.

Everyone owning an acre or more should plant at least one or two fine trees of long life and fine form as above enumerated.

K. O. SESSIONS.

THE HIBISCUS

San Diego has been favoring the hibiscus generously and there are probably fifteen varieties to be found in the gardens about the city.

Mr. Hugh Evans of Santa Monica has sixty sorts.

Honolulu is known as the happy home of the hibiscus and her novel arrangement of the

flowers on the ends of slender cocoa palm sticks, has been copied at our flower shows.

At Honolulu there is a single yellow flowered variety growing on the very sea shores, the plant is large with a very heavy distorted trunk and large soft hairy like leaves and is called the "How" tree. On the slopes of the beautiful island of Kauai and in certain canyons, a very tall pure white hibiscus is a native plant. This white variety is very fragrant and the only hibiscus with a decided perfume.

There are a few native red varieties also on the Islands. The gardeners and plant lovers of Honolulu have raised many seedling hybrids until there are over one hundred decidedly different and beautiful varieties. The Agnes Galt being the largest single one, an old Rose color.

Four dozen of selected new colors and grafted plants were sent to San Diego last year and they are practically all alive and the next fall flower show will be showing them. The tall white variety resents being trimmed down and prefers a chance to reach a second story window. It flourishes at an altitude of 3000 feet. In a general collection this white variety is an excellent feature. It is known botanically as *Hibiscus Waimeae*.

The use of the hibiscus in our street parking space is excellent and La Jolla has already enough plants so planted that the feature is noticeable.

The double red hibiscus seems to have the best habit to form a symmetrical full bushy plant for the parkings, and with very little care it grows rapidly. The flowers are large and brilliant and foliage of excellent quality. March is the best month for their pruning.—K. O. S.

A NEW SHRUB

The attractive pink flowering grey shrub shown at the September meeting is, *Leucophyllum Texanum*. It was botanically identified by Mr. L. W. Nuttall and Miss Fidella Woodcock and also verified by Mr. Alfred Rehder of the Arnold Arboretum. It is a native of the Valley of the lower Rio Grande. A beautiful spring bloomer and very attractive in the wild.

In cultivation it will grow six to eight feet in height, and so reported from Florida.

A RARE BILBERGIA

One of Mr. Vedder's plants growing in a hanging basket and in a very bad condition apparently—with some attention, gave a very spectacular flower stalk in October, and has been identified by Mr. Middlebrook as *Bilbergia thyrsoidea splendida*.

It was nearly a foot long and 3 to 4 inches in diameter, a spike bearing a rounded top of delicate pink lily-like flower, with a blue pistil, the sheath and stem of the flower a very soft and delicate pink, like the pink sheath of the familiar *Bilbergia nutans*. K. O. SESSIONS.

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EDITORIAL

The Football season is about over and our own Garden Contest has closed and the winners and other details are reported elsewhere in these pages so I can safely leave them to the enjoyment of their laurel wreaths and turn my attention to the much larger class of the losers. I have lost so many times in floral competitions and won numbers of others that I feel I may possibly qualify as an exhibiting critic. Further I was one of the committee that formulated the rules of the contest and now it is all over I am free to confess that I could not suggest how to incorporate in those rules that which I consider the most vital thing in a garden, which is "How does it satisfy its owner?" Like the general run of mortals I am judging others by myself and I know that I would not let the world's greatest expert make a garden for me, not because I question his genius but because I regard as the heart of my garden, the thing that I most want in it. In a fairly long life full of philandering

with gardens, I have been through the stage of sitting at the feet of the expert, experting others in my turn, and now I have arrived at the point of replying to anyone who asks for my advice on garden matters, and there are a few who do this, What do you want? I would not plan garden with anyone who did not fight with me over some detail.

For the benefit of our losers let us have a little pow-wow, I use this word because I believe it signifies a very much go-as-you-please talk, something unauthorized but unashamed. A contest means judges, judges mean experts trained along definite lines. Folks of standardized thought who are limited in action by a set of rules and specifications. They could not perform their office unless they had a formula and they have often to suppress personal admiration for departures from fixed standards. In the matter of gardens, judges must consider each unit in the competition as to its conformity to the standards they entertain, standards supplied by rules and their individual education. Garden judges have a hard time, they are of the elect and their sole reward will be in the hereafter for down here they are sure to be cussed.

Now why did you lose? I mean by you any of those of the great majority. I don't know any details whatever of this contest, I never saw one of the judges and not one of the gardens at judging time but I would wager that the losing factor was most often something in your garden you really liked, very likely something you had planned and executed, it did not fit in with garden standards but it suited you and I dare to say that for that reason it was eminently fitting in your garden. I am moved to tell you again about my kiddies' garden with the preface that I am sure its presence in the middle of my most carefully planned section would lose me not only the first prize if I entered a garden contest but even any kind of mention except perhaps a reprimand. The children chose their own spot, and at once I felt the urge to shift them to inconspicuousity but refrained, they planted everything in mixture, color, texture, habit, they improvised miniature greenhouses out of packing boxes, they did everything blessedly unhampered by rule or precedent and I am a proud man and gardener because I let them follow their own urge and did not insist upon their planting my garden and calling it theirs.

Once again you losers, Why do you have a garden? Not to win a prize though it is nice to do so, but to live with and in. To have a place to go and dig, to smell the moist earth when it is stirred, to plant and watch things grow, to make pictures with living color, perhaps to walk or sit on a pleasant day and wonder about the urge that forces the plant to rise from the seed, the ceaseless movement, what it

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is all about. You will never know; if the day is warm and your taxes paid you won't really want to know, it will be enough that the work goes on and carries you along.

It is the worst side of contests that if one wins another loses and now and then the loser forgets that this is inevitable and acquires peevement. What was it some one said about the poor, that "God must love them very much he made so many of them." Well the losers are most always in the big majority.

After a day or so I have read over that which is written above and it sounds to me like a screed from one of those chaps who pride themselves on always being on the side of the under dog. Now, I cannot leave it at that, the losers in this game are not dogs and I have been "under" enough to know that the best medicine I could have had would have been an occasional kick right where it would do most good so I have to explain myself further with the ever present danger of being still less understandable.

I don't advocate the wholesale massacre of garden experts real and near, they have their uses and as Shakespeare says, "in their time play many parts." Gardens should have a foundation plan.

It is not much of an idea to make them like the sower in the parable scattering seed promiscuous alike among rocks, thorns, by the wayside, with a dim hope of hitting some good soil. The experience of the past and of others is of value. Some folks do know more about plants, their habits, seasons, etc., than others. Gardens are made for different purposes, there are public gardens necessarily experted, large private gardens mostly a sop for the pride of the owner, also in professional care, then the big majority of small ones supported at the least expense because a house seems to need a garden and finally the honor roll of those made and tended by the owner as a labor of love.

I leave it now fearfully, because whatever I write seems to be wrong. A lady has just squelched me over the editorial last month suggesting no planting right up to the house and left me without argument by saying I challenge any one to say that your house with no planting at its base looks better than mine that has," and for a fact no one could.

I rather enjoy being wrong, I know so many people that are so dead sure they are right.

November 22, 1929.

Editor "California Garden":

Mrs. Wight's article on *Oncocylus* and *Regalia Iris* is I think very good.

I have some experience and observation that may perhaps add a little to it—if you so wish.

They should be planted deeper than beard-

ed iris, say about two inches deep.

They resent cutting of the fleshy roots that nourish the rhizome when digging them.

They must be planted when dormant, or very early in growth.

With me they do best the second year in the ground, and in not too hot a situation. My very hot southern slope is less successful than a less hot northern slope.

I have good grounds for believing that the difference between indifferent and good success is in the use of *Semesan Bel*, as used for potatoes. So far this season only two clumps, not half of one per cent, have shown anything but high health and vigor, a marked contrast to the sickliness of other years.

I treat the rhizomes, and I also spray the foliage occasionally; heavily when laid by for the summer bake.

Last year I had five glorious clumps of *Hauranensis*, but just as the seed pods began to ripen a galloping rot struck them, that promised to leave me neither seeds nor rhizomes.

I poured a quart of *Semesan Bel* over them, with the result that I saved a lot of seed and a lot of new growth started that was uncontaminated. When I dug the clumps in early fall to replant, the surviving rhizomes were clean and healthy with the exception of one small point that looked like active infection. This was almost miraculous in view of what happened last spring.

So far, about eight years experience, frost has not hurt these species of iris; at least so far as I have been able to observe here.

Charon and *Stolonifera* are the easiest growers I have.

None are for sale or exchange as I am increasing stocks for hybridizing purposes.

Yours,

C. G. White.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FUCHSIA

It has been stated recently that the first Fuchsias brought to England were planted in the Earl of Bute's Highcliffe garden. Is this correct?

Fuchsia coccinea was the first Fuchsia brought to England; this is generally admitted. In *Gardening Illustrated* of July 24th, 1880, page 246, there is an account of Mr. Lee, the well-known nurseryman, of Hammersmith, having procured the plant of the first Fuchsia brought to England from "an humble dwelling at Wapping," where he purchased it for ten golden guineas from a sailor's wife. Most of us have known this version more or less since early youth. The authority of the Keeper of Botany at the British Museum of Natural History in verification is as follows:

(Continued on Page 10)

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

SOUTH WINDS

Winds a-blowing o'er the bay
 Blow the dusty hours away
 Blow to far forgetfulness
 Summer with its heat opprest.
 Blow the last red leaves that curl
 Round the bare peach stem, unfurl
 Autumn's flag of red and brown
 Blow all signs of summer down.
 Scatter in the naked trees
 Cawing crows and yellowed leaves
 Whirl them to a darkening sky
 Fluttering, circling make them fly;
 Laggards from their playground loth
 Blow the rain clouds from the south.
 Blow them, blow them till they yield
 Treasure to the earth and field.
 Over filling lake and pond
 Blow to mountain tops beyond
 Blow from seedlings in a night
 Starry orchids into sight
 Blow the tender spears of grass
 Over yellow violets pass
 Blow the poppy into gold
 Blow the new leaf from the fold
 Blow the fields to creamy white
 Fairy carpets of delight
 Blow from out the cozy nest
 Lazy linnets newly dressed
 Blow wild south winds blow to rest
 In the north and in the west.

—Hester Ogilvie Abbott.

* * *

This charming invocation to the rain wind was written for California Garden in 1914 and is published again here because with the sore need of rain at this time your Editor feels it more powerful than any prayer he might conceive.

TOADS IN THE GARDEN

A toad is a useful pet in the yard or in the garden. Not that you can teach a toad to do tricks or anything like that, but, in a measure, it can be tamed so that it becomes accustomed to people and to human voices and other domestic noises. Contrary to an old-time belief, handling toads will not cause warts on the hands; the warts remain on the toad, where they belong.

A toad's selfishness lies in its almost insatiable appetite for insects. It is stated upon good authority that one toad, in the course of three months' time, will devour almost 10,000 insects, including worms, slugs, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, crickets, cutworms, plant lice, and other more or less destructive pests.

In order to thrive toads must have moisture, so it becomes necessary often to provide a shallow basin or pool of water in which they can soak their bodies in comfort; for that is their method of quenching their thirst. They are long lived. One was known to live thirty-

six years, and then lose its life by accident.

Toads are warty and cold, but not slimy, as some people think. The temperature of their bodies is governed by the temperature of the air. As a means of defence they are able to throw off from their warty skins a fluid which is extremely irritating to the mouths of dogs and certain other animals. The fluid does not irritate human skin unless it is communicated to the membranes of the mouth or to the eyes. German violinists are said to use it on their hands sometimes to prevent perspiration. The toad has bright, shining, beautiful eyes. It has a canny, interesting way of "playing possum" when frightened by flattening itself against the ground, which it resembles in color, and ceasing to breathe for a time.—Better Flowers.

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE
EXAMINATION

The United States Civil Service Commission announces the following open competitive examination:

Assistant Marketing Specialist
(Fruits and Vegetables)

Applications for assistant marketing specialist (fruits and vegetables) must be on file with the Civil Service Commission at Washington, D. C., not later than January 21, 1930.

The examination is to fill vacancies in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture, for duty in Washington, D. C., or in the field.

The entrance salaries range from \$2,600 to \$3,100 a year. Higher-salaried positions are filled through promotion.

The duties are to conduct investigations of the handling, marketing, and distribution of fruits and vegetables; making a careful study of the facilities available for handling and transporting these products; securing market information relative to their supply, movement, and prices; assisting in the development of the market news service for these products, and in the securing of information for use in the determination of market grades and standards for these products; the inspection of fruits and vegetables in the Food Products Inspection Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and otherwise assisting in the betterment and improvement of marketing conditions affecting the handling of these products.

Competitors will be rated on practical questions relative to the duties of the position, a thesis to be handed to the examiner on the day of the examination, and on their education, training, and experience.

Full information may be obtained from the United States Civil Service Commission at Washington, D. C., or from the Secretary of the United States Civil Service Board of Examiners at the post office or customhouse in any city.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

LATH HOUSE MATTERS

By Alfred D. Robinson

Nearly the end of 1929, close enough to talk about what the past twelve months has brought and taught. In the first place it has been a distinctly lathhouse season with its surplus of heat and lack of moisture. Under the lath, sunshine has been filtered and moisture conserved. The vast majority of the plants grown in our lathhouses are shallow rooters and ask for water little but often, while in our gardens, with trees and shrubbery, an irrigation to be effective must wet down at least two to three feet, a bare foot will suffice under lath.

Generally Begonias have done very well, the one exception being the tuberous, and yet I have grown the tallest specimen I ever saw, six and a half feet, a single pink of fair sized bloom, the dead stalk is still in evidence to shame the doubting Thomas. Diadema and Palmata, usually shy bloomers, have had plenty of flowers, and the tall growers have outdone themselves. The so-called winter bloomers promise very well and that San Diego orphan Washington Street, so-called because it was discovered in a garden there, is full of bloom and bud. This is a very charming thing when well grown with long narrow shiny leaves and white tinted blooms. It needs severe cutting back inclining to be woody. Very individual it suggests for one parent *Ulmafolia* though the leaves are smooth. And by the way, last winter took a heavy toll on *Ulmafolia* and I had quite a time replacing my stock. It only belongs in a collection anyhow.

More folks than ordinarily have arrived to see and buy the tuberous after, well after, they have gone dormant. It should be well stressed that the tuberous Begonia is seasonal, its blooming period runs from June to September with the peak in July and August. According to the climatic conditions this period may extend a bit both ways. When it goes dormant it is very dormant, all the top comes off leaving nothing but the tuber. This should be borne in mind in planning a Begonia planting. The tuberous, alone, is quite temporary, even the tubers are apt to be short lived, with what we have and what we have not in our soils. To satisfy a general public demand for color in range, size in bloom, over a continuous year in and out program, hybridizers have sought to put the big bloom of the tuberous on the ever working fibrous but nature has

rebelled, so far at least. The few results of this attempted cross I have managed have been very much not worth while, in fact they have refused to bloom or grow but tantalizingly keep alive. A begonia bed in a garden must have an assortment of varieties unless it is to be a bare spot for a part of the year.

Another development of this last summer has been the popular discovery of the so-called red rock from Camp Kearney. I don't know why I said so-called because my understanding is that it is a sandstone. I am asked continually what gives it its color and I give the questioner the choice of the reasons I have had given me, among them being iron, quicksilver and fire. When I visited a spot above Los Angeles where palms and Bananas and such were being moved around on a rocky hillside, the excavations were being burned out before planting and this did redden up the rocks and I was assured the red was permanent. However this may be, the Red Hardpan to give it another alias is a very beautiful material for rockeries, I hear a good many complaints that this rock has now become a regular article of commerce with a definite value but I cannot see any reason why its having been just picked up for years should establish a continuance of the stealing. In addition I do not consider the price now asked for it, about \$7.50 a ton delivered, either exorbitant or prohibitive, for I can think of nothing to be had for the price that will add so much to a lathhouse or garden. Perhaps I am rather batty on red rock, lots of folks say so, and maybe they are right for when my family asked me what I wanted for Christmas, without any hesitation I replied, A few more loads of red rock.

I have been building up a terrace effect with my beloved in the glassed section of the lathhouse, and I wished for the strength of some of these three hundred pound footballers so that I could place every piece to the fraction of an inch all by myself, but the muscles are not what they used to be, and they never were anything wonderful, and the back bows easily, not to mention a leg weakness, so I had to have a younger and stouter helper and then the two of us could not get a gorgeous big piece off the ground. We finally tipped it on the barrow and rolled into place with a plank and two pieces of pipe. It is what our young-

sters call a "PIP", all capitals. It has lichens and mosses, holes, crevices and pinnacles, ledges and precipices, and a world of color from a red, that is not red but is, to greys, leads and yellows. It was a joy to get a backache and shaky knees over placing all the accent rocks. Now I don't want to plant it for fear of hiding a rock. That reminds me, I shall have to move a lot of *Pteris Tremula* out of my rockeries already planted, they have grown much too big in one season. The smaller growing *Pteris* usually sold as table ferns have done admirably, as have the maidenhairs and I am encouraged to hope that in this situation I may grow many ferns I had given up as hopeless. If I get that Christmas present of a few more loads of red rock I want to build a cairn of it in which to plant nothing but *Begonia Glaucomphylla Scandens*. This has been generally regarded as a hanging basket variety, but it wants to run along the ground and keep making roots from the stem. I believe that is how its baby that Mrs. Theodosia Shepherd gave us, Marjorie Daw, should be grown, and some day I hope to find a patron who will let me plant this *Begonia* on a slope. At present we train Marjorie along a fence or up a post and she is short lived treated this way, and I diagnose her early decease to be the result of the main root system being able to sustain only a limited top growth. If Marjorie is allowed to trail along the ground she will root along the stem like her forebear *Glaucomphylla*.

Another thing I think I have discovered is about that charming small red *Begonia* which struggles along under a lot of names *Ascotiensis*, *Corbeille de Feu* and *Bertha de Chateau Rocher*, I have adopted the last, I have always supposed it needed a lot of coddling, woolen pajamas, protection from sun, etc., but this year I halved a batch of small plants, one went into the glassed section, the other stayed outside under a canvas which was removed the day before the warmest spell of the year, and this latter lot revelled in sun and exposure and the protected grew peaked and pale, so I put them out too, and they have definitely shown their pleasure. Practically all my small plants are now exposed to the full sun for several hours each day. This confirms a long held belief that at least a part of our lathhouses ought to have removable roofs.

The wise always prepare to be disappointed with novelties and it is a pretty good tip for the general run, so I have been pleasantly surprised with the double Chinese primrose, they are beginning to bloom and the white particularly is more than charming, I anticipate a great deal of pleasure from them. I am continually hearing of failures to raise these and other primroses from seed and it would seem the most common cause of non-germination

is too much heat. In our climate the seed box wants to be kept in the coolest place outside of the icebox, and the seedlings must be shaded and have cool treatment. Of several kinds tried this year only one failed and that was a double pink *Malacoides* and I am obliged to blame the seed. I am trying *Malacoides* as a ground cover for my Darwin tulips. The *Nemesia* are throwing up bloom stalks, make a note of the fact that seed of this must be sown neither earlier nor later than September for best results, it is so definitely a cool growth.

I read the other day a tip on storing tuberous *Begonias* which I think worth passing along and that is to pack the tubers upside down and lest you should not know which is which, the depressed side is the top. This keeps moisture from collecting in the depression. I have about worked over all my tubers and they are poorer and rougher than usual. I shall sort them with a critical eye and a hard heart when packing. The other day I was showing a lady what was a good and a poor tuber and taking up one I remarked, "Now this I shall throw away," and she said, "Give it to me." "No," I said. "What, not if you would throw it away anyhow?" "No!" And it took minutes to make her see that if I threw it away she would be foolish to pick it up. I know of nothing more aggravating than to fuss over a poor *Begonia* tuber, which won't grow or die. As usual the best tubers came from the plants grown in pots.

I find I am running on at unusual length so I wish the lathhouse cult lots of success for the next season and it would be nice if they would write some of their experiences for these pages.

The Introduction of the Fuchsia

(Continued from Page 7)

"Dated May 21st, 1929. Dear Sir: The Fuchsia was brought from South America about 1788, by a Captain Firth. The plant was acquired by a nurseryman—Lee, of Hammersmith—by whom it was propagated and distributed. It was named *Fuchsia coccinea* by the botanist Solander, in honor of Leonard Fuchs, one of the German herbalists—his 'Neue Krenkerbuch' was published at Basel, in 1543. Signed, A. B. Rendle, Keeper of Botany."

So we see that the plant was named after yet another of those splendid old-time monks, who concentrated so magnificently on their special subjects. Should not the credit for securing, propagating, and distributing go to Mr. Lee, the founder of the Hammersmith Nursery, rather than to a Hampshire garden?—Ajax in *Gardening Illustrated*.

GARDEN PROBLEMS

By Walter S. Merrill

THE GARDEN CONTEST

In the California Garden of September last, I spoke of the opportunity which I had had of accompanying the judges in the Garden Contest on their rounds of inspection. Now that the contest is closed for the year and the awards have been made, I wish to comment somewhat at length on the contest as a whole and on certain features of the gardens, good and bad, that impressed the judges most.

In August, 1928, Mr. Frank Strausser and Mr. John W. Snyder, each quite independently of the other, conceived the idea that a Garden Contest would be a good thing for San Diego. These gentlemen spoke to me about it, and I acted for them in suggesting the advisability of such a contest to the Floral Association. Later Mrs. Greer asked me to act as chairman of the committee in charge of the contest. It was decided to offer silver cups to gardens of three sizes: Small Gardens, of not more than 7,500 square feet; Medium-sized Gardens, of from 7,501 to 22,500 square feet; and Large Gardens of any size above the latter figure. The cups are to be held for a year by the winner, and to be held permanently by entrants winning three times.

Initiating such a contest is plain, hard work. People generally dislike to enter their gardens at the beginning. Some are over-modest; some are over-sensitive; and others are just not interested. However, fifty-four entries were secured, which was at least double what I expected the first year. Of these, eleven were in the large class, twenty in the medium and twenty-three in the small. The gardens were inspected in May, August and November, each inspection by a separate set of judges who were highly capable and experienced gardeners from out of town. These judges scored the gardens independently, according to a scale of values fixed by the committee, and the scores were averaged and the awards made in accordance with these average figures. If the resulting decisions are criticized, it can be only on the grounds of the choice of judges. As all but two of these were professional gardeners, and as these two have had very long experience in their own and other gardens, I feel that no more fair way of awarding the prizes could be arranged.

The judges felt that it is a mistake to make more than one inspection,—that the Spring is the best time. I shall recommend to the com-

mittee for 1930 that this change be made. The gardens did not score at all well, with a very few exceptions, in August and November. However, it may be stated here that the number one gardens in all classes, as determined by the final average, were the same as the number one gardens in the May inspection. But not one of the winning gardens was first in all three inspections.

The most conspicuous fault in the gardens as a whole was the lack of foresight shown in the original planning. A garden put together anyhow, without thought for what it will be when the trees and shrubs are grown, cannot, in the eyes of experts, compare favorably with one which shows careful designing. This is brought out very plainly in three contestants for the Best Planting around an Industrial or Commercial Plant. Two properties of the Gas Company (at El Cajon and Boundary, and at Fourth and Ash) are very attractive with their planting of shrubs and trees; but the space allotted to them is nowhere big enough for mature plants of the varieties chosen, and in two or three years more they must be replaced by smaller specimens. The judges considered that very poor planting indeed, and awarded the prize to the planting in front of the plant of the Original French Laundry, which is suited to the style of architecture and which will grow better and better as the years go on and the plants reach maturity. However charming it may be, and however great a source of pride to its owner, a poorly designed garden immediately reveals itself as such to the expert gardener. Gardens which stood out as conspicuously well-planned are: Small, Mrs. Edelen, Mrs. Mulkey and the Misses Schwieder; Medium, Mrs. Evans; Large, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Marston. These six gardens indicate that much thought has been spent on other matters than the growing of fine plants and the securing of a quantity of colorful bloom.

A wall around a garden seems to make little difference in the value of the garden to the neighborhood. Those scoring highest for this were those of Mrs. Edelen, Mr. Marston, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Strausser, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Dunning, and in every case the real beauty of the garden is hidden from the public by wall, hedge or close planting of trees and shrubs. Only hints are given of the treasures inside.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

Scores for the physical condition of the plants were generally highest by far at the May inspection, as was natural. Yet the winning gardens in each case kept up a high score throughout, and in two cases this score was increased at each visit of the judges.—indicating the great interest which the owners felt in the contest. Mrs. Mulkey's scores for quality of plants were in succession 12, 15 and 18 out of a possible 20. This enthusiastic gardener, with a very new garden, can be looked to as a strong candidate for first honors in small gardens next year.

Scores for quality and quantity of bloom were likewise highest at the May inspection, although Mrs. Mulkey, Mrs. Edelen, the Misses Schwieder and Mr. Dunning increased their scores each time, and Mr. Strausser, with best average score under this heading, was highest in November.

Gardens were allowed up to 15 points for excellence in choice of plants, (plants here as elsewhere including trees and shrubs). Those gardens outstanding as planted with materials most suitable are Mr. Marston, Mr. Hamilton, Mrs. Ronan, Mr. Strausser and Mrs. Evans.

Mr. Strausser's garden is the only one which scored heavily for the use of novel plants. He makes a specialty of experimenting with exotics and rare plants, and has had considerable success with some of them, especially with gardenias, rhododendrons and azaleas.

It is needless to say that the best gardens were very clean when the judges visited them. Those most noticeable for this were Mr. Strausser's, Mrs. Edelen's, Mrs. Jerebek's and Mr. Dunning's. It was difficult to give to these four scores less than perfect.

The proper use of garden furniture was perhaps not as well understood as it should have been. It meant that the judges scored for attractive furniture that the garden seemed to demand,—and this included not only sun-dials, fountains, etc., but also fences, pergolas, trellises and such. Scores were cut oftener for too much than for too little furniture. Mrs. John Burnham scored highest for this, with Mrs. Edelen, Mr. Jack Mason, Mr. Marston, Mrs. Evans and Mr. Hamilton very close.

The special awards caused much extra work for the judges, and they revisited several gardens for second and third inspections. Much discussion among the judges over the respective merits of Mr. Strausser's *araucaria excelsa* and Mr. Marston's group of Canary Island Pines finally resulted in the award going to the first. The pools of Mr. Hamilton and Mrs. Evans were considered of equal value (though wholly unlike) and the award was a tie. While Mrs. Jerebek's lawn was very small, it was so absolutely flawless that it won over Mr. Elliott's very fine large bent grass lawn. For novel features, Mrs. Evans with her climbing

roses on wires between the palms, and Mr. Mason with his rose bushes in redwood tubs under the pepper trees were tied, and Mr. Hamilton's hillside planting of aloes was a close third.

All in all, the contest was a great success as a beginning. It is hoped that it will grow each year in size and value. Every member of the association should work to get all the entries possible. There should be a hundred or more in 1930.

W. L. MERRILL.

GARDEN CONTEST AWARDS

The First Annual Garden Contest, held under the auspices of the Floral Association, ended with the November inspection by the judges. The scores for the three inspections have been averaged, and the following are the six highest in each class. A silver cup and blue ribbon goes to the highest score, a red ribbon to the second, and a yellow ribbon to the third. Blue ribbons go to the winners in the special award sections.

For Large Gardens

First, Mr. Thomas Hamilton, La Playa. Score 78.44.

Second, Mr. Frank Strausser, 1975 Sunset Blvd. Score 75.08.

Third, Mr. G. W. Marston, 3525 Seventh St. Score 70.06.

Fourth, Mr. F. J. Wright, 628 Torrance St. Score 56.14.

Fifth, Mr. J. Wilkinson Elliott, Point Loma. Score 55.25.

Sixth, Mrs. O. B. Wetzell, La Playa. Score 53.64.

For Medium-sized Gardens

First, Mrs. Herbert F. Evans, 1506 Plumosa Way. Score 74.31.

Second, Mr. H. C. Dunning, 3637 Hyacinth Dr. Score 68.42.

Third, Mrs. John Burnham, 3027 Homer St. Score 66.39.

Fourth, Mr. Jack Mason, 4435 Ampudia St. Score 59.81.

Fifth, Mr. D. F. Hamon, 3367 Albatross St. Score 54.83.

Sixth, Mr. John Bakkers, 6065 Bach Street. Score 47.00.

For Small Gardens

First, Mrs. F. F. Edelen, 3121 Freeman St. Score 76.97.

Second, Mrs. Hulda Jerebek, 3343 Grim St. Score 65.08.

Third, Misses Schwieder, 2344 Pine St. Score 64.97.

Fourth, Mrs. John Ronan, 3011 33rd Street. Score 61.53.

Fifth, Mrs. W. L. Mulkey, 4565 Wightman

Ave. Score 58.22.

Sixth, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Cooper, 4130 Hamilton St. Score 44.28.

Special Awards

For best tree or group of trees: To Mr. Strausser, for an auracaria excelsa.

For best lawn: To Mrs. Hulda Jerebek and Honorable Mention to Mr. J. W. Elliott.

For best rose garden: To Mr. Strausser.

For best planting of annuals and perennials: To Mr. J. W. Elliott.

For best rock garden: To Mr. Thomas Hamilton.

For best lath house: To Mr. Thomas Hamilton.

For best planting of cactus and succulents: To Mr. Thomas Hamilton.

For best pool: Tie between Mrs. Evans and Mr. Hamilton.

For best treatment of parking strip: To the Misses Schwieder.

For best treatment of a wall or hedge: To Mrs. H. F. Evans and Honorable Mention to Mr. Dunning.

For best novelty treatment of a garden problem: To Mrs. H. F. Evans and Mr. Jack Mason.

For best planting around a commercial or industrial plant: To the Original French Laundry, 1040 Cleveland Ave.

For the best patio: To Mr. Jack Mason.

An Award of Merit was given to the Spreckels Commercial Co. for the attractive planting around their rock crushing plant at Otay. This was not eligible for competition as it is outside the city limits.

ABOUT FUCHSIAS

Zauschneria Californica

This plant, which is otherwise known as the California Fuchsia, is a most beautiful subject for the rock garden. It has been in bloom in my garden for fully one month, and at the moment of writing (October 18th) it is as bright as ever. The color, which is a glowing scarlet, is particularly welcome in the general planting scheme. I find that the California Fuchsia rejoices in a medium, well-drained soil, and an effort should be made to conform to these conditions when preparing the pocket. Late November and early April are excellent times for planting. Personally, I prefer the former, because it saves the plants from suffering in the event of a dry spring. Propagation is easily effected by means of cuttings, which should be inserted under a bell-glass or cold frame. June is, perhaps, the best month for the insertion of cuttings, which should be prepared from fairly firm growth. If encouragement is given, the young plants should be ready for the rock garden by November.

—G. H. C.

HINTS ON PROPAGATION

Professor L. C. Chadwick, of the floricultural staff of Ohio State University, gave an interesting talk on the newer methods of plant propagation. The first of the newer practices to be mentioned was the use of chemicals as stimulating agents. Of the many chemicals that have been used, three have proved the most successful and useful. Acetic acid has been found especially useful as a stimulating agent for chrysanthemum cuttings. Soaking the cuttings in a one per cent acetic acid for twenty-four hours was the practice recommended.

Soaking cuttings in a two per cent solution of ordinary sugar has proved beneficial with a number of florists' crops. Carnations, especially, have reacted favorably to this treatment. The sugar, however, should be washed off before cuttings are inserted in sand.

Use of Chemicals

The most important chemical and the one that has been used more extensively than any other is potassium permanganate. Two methods of application of this chemical were recommended; first, the soaking of cuttings in the solution, the same as suggested for the other chemicals, before cuttings were put in the propagating medium. The second method suggested was to apply the chemical to the rooting medium before the cuttings were inserted. Cuttings of florists' crops that have been stimulated by soaking them in a one per cent solution of potassium permanganate for twenty-four hours are: Heliotropes, chrysanthemums, poinsettias, coleuses and other bedding plants.

Besides carnations, Professor Chadwick reported that cuttings of many different kinds of shrubs have also responded favorably to potassium permanganate, when used according to the second method suggested. The solution

(Continued on Page 14)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GARDENING

BY EDNA BETTS TRASK

A Book for Amateurs, written in simple language, giving explicit directions for planting in this section of the State.
Price \$1.25. Publisher:

EDNA B. TRASK,
1202 N. Holliston Ave.,
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ANOTHER CALIFORNIA WILD WATER LILY

By Mrs. W. S. Thomas

The story in the last issue of the Magazine of the finding of a wild blue water lily has brought forth another one.

One of our Floral Association members, Mrs. Appleman has informed us, with malicious (?) triumphant voice that she also found some in a canyon near Miramar, twenty years ago. On several occasions, over a period of years she picked blossoms there.

The puzzle is that we so seldom hear of the wild blue ones. Texas people will often tell you of its being a native of their state. But our old authority, Bailey, makes no mention. He does state that America is the only country in which three native colors are found—namely white, pink and yellow.

At the library in the California Building in the Park is a complete set of the Curtiss Botanical Magazine, which, by the way is wonderful, in scope as well as beauty of coloring. Each and every known botanical subject has been given full description, as well as a colored plate amazingly true to nature.

The value of this set is very high. It was presented by Miss Ellen Scripps and it gives knowledge not found in Bailey. And the Librarian wishes the announcement made to the Floral Society that it is open for use, on application.

But to return to our subject. These books tell of a blue water lily discovered in New Mexico by Dr. Wright, date not given.

This one however was light blue, while those I have several times heard of as being found in Texas are described as lavender, our two instances of California lilies are also lavender.

Now perhaps the California Garden, and the San Diego Floral Society has a chance to make history. We hereby send forth a call for anyone who has knowledge of any case of a wild blue water lily found anywhere in America to bring forth all facts.

We know positively these lilies have been found and that they are quite abundant in Texas.

It is quite in the range of possibility that our Society can establish the fact that California also has added another star to her floral crown.

Some have advanced the theory that migratory birds have brought the seeds—granted that were possible, then where from?

Such a theory is scarcely tenable, from the nature of these seeds. They are tiny, no larger than a pin head even in the large varieties—they sink to the bottom of the water in an hour or two after the seed pod bursts.

At any rate, what we want to establish, is that America has a wild blue water lily—that California (and San Diego) has a valid claim to a part of this natural inheritance, and

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that our own Society has had a hand in it. So if you can add to our information, please give us anything you have.

(Continued from Page 13)

tion was applied to the rooting medium at the rate of one gallon to one square foot of surface. A stronger solution was suggested to be used with cuttings of shrubs.

Media Used

The next practice suggested was the use of different media. Granulated peat moss, when mixed with equal parts of sand, has been found to be superior to sand as a rooting medium for cuttings of many plants. Heliotropes, dahlias, gardenias, geraniums, chrysanthemums and begonias are among florists' crops that have reacted better in the mixture of sand and peat than in sand.

Professor Chadwick reported that the position of the cut is an important factor to consider in making cuttings. Even though the universal method is to make the cut at the node, tests with some seventy-five kinds of shrubs have shown that many root better when cut one-fourth of an inch to one-half of an inch below the node than when cut directly at it. A similar reaction can be expected with florists' crops, although few experiments have been carried out with them as yet.—Florists' Review.

A FUCHSIA SOCIETY

There is being organized at Oakland, California, a Fuchsia Society. The Constitution and by-laws will soon be in print and received by the California Garden.

Mrs. W. S. Thomas and Miss K. O. Sessions have been placed upon the board of directors.

The San Francisco Bay region is a very favored fuchsia climate but San Diego can also grow a very excellent fuchsia, if the proper location and care are considered.

They are, however, grown more satisfactorily here than at Los Angeles or Pasadena.

TRY THIS FOR CUTTINGS

Some plants are easily increased by means of cuttings, others give only a small percentage of success no matter how carefully they are treated. Cuttings of Nepeta, Pinks, Violas, and the like, of which cuttings are made from soft shoots of this season's growth, root without difficulty even in inexperienced hands. The second class of plants (increase of which is made from soft shoots of this year's growth) present a peculiar variation in the way they will or will not root. It almost seems that some plants are affected by the personality of the gardener, for to some success comes without difficulty, while others, adopting identical methods, obtain a very low percentage of rooted cuttings.

Such plants as Aubretias, Rock Roses, and Carnations belong to this class, and cuttings often fail to "strike". The usual course is to insert the cuttings singly in rows either in the open, or in a frame. If this method is adopted with cuttings of Aubretia and Rock Rose, a few may make roots in due course, but the majority will fail to do so.

Quite by accident I discovered a method of dealing with plants which are difficult to increase by cuttings, by which a greatly increased percentage of success may be obtained, and this is simply to insert a number of cuttings in a bunch instead of singly; I call them "bunch" cuttings. When making these "bunch"

cuttings half a dozen of the soft growths are taken, the bottoms being placed together irrespective of the length of the cuttings, in exactly the manner adopted when making a buttonhole. These are lightly tied into a bunch by means of raffia, and the whole bunch then inserted as though it were a single cutting in the hole prepared for it out of doors or in a box of soil. When sufficient of these "bunch" cuttings have been inserted, the soil is made thoroughly firm by treading and, if dry, thoroughly soaked with water, and kept nicely moist until it is seen that root action has commenced, which will be indicated by the cuttings making new growth.

Exactly why these "bunch" cuttings should give a greater percentage of success over single cuttings I cannot definitely state; but I have a theory that the moisture retained by the stems of the bunch of cuttings enables them to "carry on" until a callus has formed. The treatment of these cuttings when they have formed roots consists in carefully lifting and separating them with as little root breakage as possible.—Clarence Ponting in Popular Gardening.

THE WINTER CARE OF CACTI

Many collections of "Cacti" are made up of plants which do not belong to the Cactaceae group, but as they are of similar structure and habit it is quite an easy matter to confuse them. "Succulents" is a better word to use, as this includes all plants which are capable of storing large quantities of water in their tissues, so that during the long periods of drought they are able to "live on" themselves for many months.

The Opuntia (Prickly Pear), Echinocactus (Hedgehog Cactus), Phyllocactus, Epiphyllum (Leaf-flowering Cactus), Cereus (Night-flowering Cactus), and Mammillaria (Nipple Cactus) are true Cacti, but the following belong to various orders: Aloe (Liliaceae), Agave (Amaryllidaceae), Mesembryanthemum (Ficoidaceae), Cotyledon, Rochea and Crassula

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(Crassulaceae) and *Haworthia* (Liliaceae). As these plants are capable of living a long time without water, it is generally assumed that it is beneficial for them to be deprived of water and generally neglected during winter.

Under cultivation it is not wise, however, to try to imitate their natural conditions so that they should be watered regularly during winter—except during severe cold weather—when the soil is in a right condition to receive it. Although they will withstand long periods of drought, they should receive as much attention as *Fuchsias*, *Geraniums* or any other greenhouse plants. During hot, summer days they require large quantities of water, because as the temperature is high, the water rapidly evaporates from the soil, transpiration is vigorous, and consequently growth is active. As the days shorten, however, and the temperature becomes lower, evaporation, transpiration and growth slow down, so that instead of water being required every day or so, weeks may elapse before the compost is sufficiently dry to need re-moistening. Finally, in the dead of winter, six or eight weeks may elapse before water need be applied, but when it is give a thorough soaking of the soil.

It is only where sufficient heat cannot be maintained to exclude frost that extreme care in watering is required, for there the soil remains perpetually cold and damp, which is detrimental to the roots of the plants. Under such conditions the only safeguard is to keep them perfectly dry, until all danger of severe frost is over.

Drainage is important in the successful wintering of succulents. The pots should contain at least one-third crocks and plenty of broken pieces of brick must be incorporated with the soil. The root system must also be adequate, which means that repotting must have been done early enough in the year to allow the pots to become well filled with roots by autumn. These plants do not need to be kept in a high temperature during winter; so long as frost can be excluded from the structure in which they are growing they will be perfectly safe.

Plants growing in rooms may be protected by covering them with several thicknesses of paper during frosty weather. It also greatly assists them to remain healthy, and adds to their appearance if they are kept clean and free from insect pests. As they are too prickly to sponge, this operation can be performed with a stiff brush which should be dipped in insecticide and rubbed well over the stems.

—Popular Gardening.

LAYING OUT NEW GARDENS

A task which many people are now contemplating is the laying out of the garden. They may be tackling a piece of ground that has never been cultivated before, and until a definite scheme has been decided upon it is

unwise to start operations on any particular portion of the plot.

Whilst it is recommended that everyone should embody his own ideas in the designs of his garden, it is possible to profit by the experience of others. The fertile mind may seize upon a pleasing idea and cultivate it, or even improve upon it. There are certain fundamental principles of design which must be followed. If they are not, the result may still be moderately pleasing, but even to the uninitiated something will appear wrong. It may not be possible to translate the error into words, but the disappointment remains just the same.

One of the most important points to bear in mind when designing the small garden is to be governed to a large extent by the position of windows and doors in the house. Every portion of the formal garden visible from the house must centralize on an important window, and main paths should be square with the house, and where possible lead straight to a door or other entrance.

A paved path and steps make an admirable way to the front door. A path which does not lead to a door must centralize upon an important part of the house. Tub trees of formal shape add greatly to the picture, whilst a seat placed centrally with the path gives some excuse for the provision of an entrance to that particular part of the house.

Paths must always lead somewhere definite. If they lead to a dead end an ornament of some kind must be provided, otherwise there is no reason for the path. Garden seats, sundials or bird baths are equally suitable and always prove an attraction in any garden.

The best treatment for the area surrounding a house is the formal garden. As already intimated every straight line must lie square with the house. Slopes in the formal garden should be avoided, and where the ground is not level a series of terraces and sunken gardens can be planned. An opportunity is thus provided for making low stone walls which are easily constructed and not expensive. Dry stone walls should never be made perpendicular, as some provision must be made for the supply of water to plants between the stones, and it is also easier to make a slanting wall more secure.

Lawns, beds, and paved courts and walks in the formal garden must always be level, although a slight fall is not perceptible, and is sometimes an advantage for drainage purposes.

Hedges are not used in gardens as much as they should be. When several types of gardens, such as Rose, formal, and kitchen, cover a comparatively small area they should be divided the one from the other, so that it is impossible to take in the entire beauty of the garden at one glance.—N. C. in *Popular Gardening*.



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